

Serial No.: 09/246,409

Attorney Docket No. 1999P07454US02

Amendments to the Drawings:

The annotated attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 3A. In FIG. 3A, various legends have been provided and clarification of the status of items, namely "Deleted" and "Added" is provided. Also attached is a replacement sheet.

Please note Formal drawings were submitted on November 2, 2004 and the drawings filed at that time reflected the above corrections.

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REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention. Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the Section 112 rejection. The drawings have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to because corrections made to items 306a, 306b were indicated to cause confusion. FIG. 3A has been amended to clarify the deletion of the items. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the phrase "said message" was indicated to be unclear. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "said threaded message." Claim 9 has been amended to delete the objected to passage. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 1 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kennedy, U.S. Patent No. 6,330,589 ("Kennedy") in view of Bailey et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,835,084 ("Bailey"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Kennedy or Bailey, either singly or in combination. As described in the Specification and in response to previous Official Action, one aspect of the present invention relates to handling of threaded messages. As used in the context of embodiments of the present invention, messages may be "threaded" when forwarded with attached materials, i.e., when a portion of a previous message is included within a succeeding message. For example, a voice message or e-mail message may be forwarded (or replied-to) with additional comments. Furthermore, to prevent redundant playback or display of threaded-in messages, embodiments of the present invention allow accessing of messages that form part of the thread when a message containing the thread is accessed.

Additionally, in certain embodiments, only the new content of a threaded message, along with a pointer to the components is stored, rather than repeatedly storing the same messages.

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Thus, claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein said memory stores only new content of messages threaded within other messages;" and claim 9 has been amended to recite "wherein only new content of a threaded message is stored."

In contrast, as discussed in response to the previous Official Action, Applicants respectfully submit that Kennedy does not relate to accessing a message contained in another message, or indicating accessing, as generally recited in the claims at issue. For example, if a message A contains messages B and C, then accessing A will access B and C. In contrast, while Kennedy provides a message tree, *accessing one message in the tree does not appear to have any effect on accessing a related branch message.*

Furthermore, Kennedy appears to store messages in the tree in their entireties, rather than only new content of threaded messages, as recited in the claims at issue. Thus, for example, at Column 3, lines 3-29, Kennedy describes retrieving message-related information from a database to determine if a message has been downloaded yet. If it has not, then the message is downloaded in its entirety; this "entire process is performed for each remaining message on the server..."

Bailey is relied on merely for illustrating a display. Applicants note that the relevant limitation has been deleted from claim 9. With reference to Claim 1, however, Applicants note that, like Kennedy, Bailey does not appear to relate to storing only new content in threaded messages.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

Claims 2 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention that is not taught, suggested or implied by Kennedy, either singly or in combination. Claim 2 has been amended to recite "wherein said memory is configured to store only new content of a threaded message;" and claim 10 has been amended to recite "wherein only new content of a threaded message is stored." As noted above, Kennedy does not appear to provide such features. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

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Claims 3-7, 11-15, and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kennedy in view of Hicks, U.S. Patent No. 6,304,573 B1 ("Hicks"). Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught, suggested or implied by Kennedy or Hicks, either singly or in combination. Kennedy has been discussed above. Hicks relates merely to storing voice messages. Thus, like Kennedy, Hicks also fails to teach, suggest or imply threading or identifying threading or accessing threaded messages as generally recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

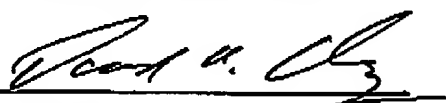
Claims 8 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kennedy in view of Bailey and Lytle, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,549,950 ("Lytle"). Applicants respectfully submit that there are elements of the claimed invention that are not taught, suggested or implied by Kennedy, Bailey, or Lytle, either singly or in combination. Lytle is relied on for allegedly teaching an e-mail reply to an original e-mail message. Assuming this is true, Lytle, appears to be representative of the problem solved by the present invention and, like Kennedy does not appear to relate to handling or identifying threaded messages as generally recited in the claims. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Annotated and Replacement Sheets (2 sheets total)

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
07/246,409

